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International Specialists in the Environmental Sciences

DATE: February 1, 1981
 TO: Rene Van Someren
 FROM: Cynthia Bachunas CB
 RE: Update on Sites Inspected by FIT in the Southeast District of Ohio

The following information was offered by Mike Moschell and Pat Gorman of the Ohio EPA (SEDO) as an update on some of the sites I have been previously involved with in their district.

TDD# F5-8009-3 Gulf Oil Chemicals Co., Marietta, Ohio

During FIT's on-site inspection of September 12, 1980, officials from both Gulf Oil and Union Carbide indicated that they were in the process of drawing up plans for the installation of monitoring wells and for a complete groundwater study of the area (see file-memo dated 9/16/80 from Cynthia Bachunas to Rene Van Someren).

Presently, Gulf has managed to coordinate efforts with Union Carbide and installed monitoring wells, splitting samples with the Ohio EPA (SEDO). Although analysis has not been completed to date, Mike Moschell indicated that at the time of collection, the samples had several characteristics which pointed toward a definite contamination and groundwater pollution problem (i.e., odor, color, viscosity). As of early January, the groundwater study had not been actively initiated, however, SEDO expects work to begin in early Spring.

TDD# F5-8009-3 American Cyanamid Co., Marietta, Ohio

American Cyanamid has provided SEDO with a copy of a groundwater study conducted on Cyanamid property during the late 1970's. According to Mike Moschell, the study shows definite proof of groundwater contamination. Mike further stated that one of the study's prime recommendations was that American Cyanamid should contact the Ohio EPA and determine a mutually acceptable solution to the problem. However, no such correspondence or contact could be found in any of the SEDO files held for the site. Furthermore, none of the SEDO personnel could recall any Cyanamid officials ever even indicating that such a problem was known to exist. After a thorough examination of the study, Mike Moschell contacted American Cyanamid asking why they had ignored the recommendation and had not informed his office of the problem. However, as of early January, Cyanamid had not responded to the inquiry.

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Note: A copy of the groundwater study may be obtained by writing Mike Moschell at Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office, 2195 Front Street, Logan, Ohio 43138; or by calling Mike at (614) 385-8501.

TDD# F5-8009-3 Buckeye Reclamation, St. Clairsville, Ohio

Buckeye Reclamation has made attempts within the past few months to cover the exposed sludge on the hillsides (see file-memo dated Sept. 24, 1980 from Claude E. Mays III, to Rene Van Someren). However, questions still remain concerning the pit said to contain animal fats and motor oil. SEDO attempted to sample the pit late last fall but when EPA personnel arrived at this site, they discovered machinery in the process of covering the pit with material from the surrounding hillsides. According to Pat Gorman, aside from throwing themselves in front of the machinery, nothing could be done to stop them. Pat added that they did manage to locate an old mine opening where they collected some leachate samples; but any direct sampling of the pit material could no longer be accomplished. Mike Moschell then added that leachate is already beginning to spring through the cover material they have added, so more extensive leachate sampling should be possible in the Spring. Mike again expressed concern over what the pit contains and further expressed his doubts over the owner's theory that the pit merely contains animal fats and motor oil. Mike and Pat also relayed an alleged episode that an Ohio EPA official (Central District Office) reported to them. According to the CDO official, a vehicle which he highly suspected of containing industrial waste arrived at the site during a routine CDO inspection. Upon seeing the government vehicle, the driver reportedly got quickly back into the truck and left without dumping his load. (It should be noted that Buckeye Reclamation is not licensed to accept industrial wastes.) Mike stated that he could not vouch for the reliability of the EPA official, but did say that the possibility could not be totally ruled out. Mike again emphasized his concern for the site, calling it a "shady operation" and expressing his hope that monitoring wells would be installed near the previous pit area to further evaluate the extent of the problem.

CB/ca